

**To:** Poulet, Chris[Poulet.Chris@epa.gov]  
**From:** Chris Poulet  
**Sent:** Tue 8/11/2015 1:00:51 PM  
**Subject:** ATSDR update

- August 5, 2015 – 1030 am Gold King Mine Blowout Occurs 1030
- August 6, 2015 – 0800 EPA EPR ER Branch Chief notifies ATSDR Regional Office that ATSDR assistance will be needed.
- - 0900 EPA ER Branch Chief receives call from San Juan Basin HD in Durango regarding Public Health issues and requests quick discussion with EPA Toxicologist Griffin and ATSDR. EPA Branch Chief decides to recommend based on prudent public health action that recreation be suspended in advance of the mine waste plume.
- - 1030 Recreation and other activities shut down by order of County Sheriff. Water intakes shut down by the City Water manager.
- -1230 ATSDR 8 rep and regional toxicologist notifies DTHHS ER via CDC ER line that spill has occurred and to expect request for assistance either from SJBHD or EPA R8.
- -2pm - EPA R8 OSC on-call and RRT OSC notifies ATSDR 8 of request from San Juan Basin HD for assistance answering public health questions from the public. ATSDR calls San Juan Basin HD to indicate that the Divisional Medical Officer is available to assist the SJB HD via telephone.
- 3pm ATSDR 8 rep + ATSDR toxicologist has conference call with EPA 8 technical services director about SJB request. ATSDR OC provides talking points for pH data to ATSDR Regional office.
- -5pm – ATSDR Region 8 and Divisional Medical Officer contact SJB HD. As no EPA data other than pH was available as of 5 pm, ATSDR discussed pH measurements in the plume of pH 5.5. ATSDR Div Med Officer discusses prudent public health practices with water of this pH with SJBHD Executive Director and Staff. ATSDR indicated that without data it could not make any public health statement about the metals content of the water.
- 6 pm -ATSDR 8 notifies duty OSC that ATSDR has contacted SJB HD
- Aug 7 2015
- 0800 – ATSDR requests QC data from EPA R8 for 8/5 and 8/6 from EPA. OSC indicates that Tox/Public health coordination will go through EPA Tech Service Branch/ATSDR liason or designate.
- 1000 – EPA 8 provides historic background data as well as plume sampling dta for dissolved

metals taken from same locations during the event on 8/5 and 8/6. ATSDR forwards

1600 – SJB HD sends request to ATSDR for assistance with public health messaging about exposure to plume water, livestock coming into contact with water, and potential for contaminated wells (drinking and livestock and irrigation) in areas with shallow water table in Animas River basin. Request forwarded to ATSDR Reg Director and DTHHS ER Atlanta. Discussion with ATSDR R8 Reg Director, Div Med Officer, Reg Toxicologist and ATSDR Reg Rep.

- Aug 8 2015

0800 – ATSDR rep sits in EOC to coordinate with EPA OSC and tech services Branch chief.

0900 – ATSDR receives request from RM Poison Control Center about coordinating public health messages. ATSDR rep returns call to RMPDC director Dr. Bronstein. ATSDR Rep sets up meeting with New Mexico and RM Poison Control Centers.

1100 – DTHHS ER provides draft of technical document to ATSDR Region 8 for Review. ATSDR Rep facilitates ATSDR Region 8 Office + medical officer review of conclusions.

1230 – ATSDR Region 8 office + medical officer review and discuss draft. Draft sent returned to ATSDR DTHHS for finalization and forward to OD for review and approval.

1330- ATSDR shares hard copy draft with EPA 8 Tech services branch chief who indicates that the conclusions fall in line with what EPA is willing to present at a public meeting the next day. EPA plans to use historical data to compare in plume and post plume samples taken from the same locations along the Animas.

1600 ATSDR OD approves emergency response consult. EPA requests ATSDR assistance in Durango under RRT.

1600 ATSDR 8 holds conference call with Divisional Medical Officer and RM Poison Control Center and New Mexico Poison Control Center to ensure that public health messages are unified. RM Poison control center requests ATSDR to explain to fellows on the phone the EPA - ATSDR relationship. ATSDR provides SJB HD contact to RM Poison Center.

1700 ATSDR forwards ER consult to San Juan Basin HD and sets up meeting with SJB HD for 1130 8/9 to discuss results with local HD and city officials.

1730 - ATSDR provides copies of ER consult to HHS 8 ER coordinator, CO Coop program. EPA tech service Branch chief, and EPA ER Branch chief.

1800 SJBHD indicates that RMPDC has contacted their office in Durango and offered to take all of their event related calls for them. ATSDR rep notifies RRT OSC and field OSC that any ATSDR travel would occur on 8/9 or later.

Sunday 8/9

0800 - ATSDR 8 staffs EOC.

0900-ATSDR updates new EPA toxicologist on 2 previous days.. EPA toxicologist requests ATSDR assistance in setting up conference call with local water authority and public health departments in the durango area.

0930 - EPA 8 Deputy RRA fo EPA indicated that ATSDR had provided a good analysis of EPA 8/5 and 8/6 data. EPA 8 ER Branch chief indicated that the anaysis was a very fast response for ATSDR.0

1130 - ATSDR holds conference call with SJB HD and Divisional Medical officer discussed the cntent of the technical assist document with the Durango-based HD. City Manager, San Juan County HD and both NM and RMPDC.

1300- EPA R8 indiicates that due to a local lab closure on sunday, lab results for sampples taken poat plume would be delayed until 8/11.

1600 - EPA toxicologist and ATSDR 8 hold conference call with Durango city manager, water treatment plant manager and operator and two other and other water system staff. Water plant made a decio Water plant makes its own decision aboout when to reopen intakes from the animas and indcated it would require some kind of written statement from an authority that would alllow it to reopen the water intakes. The SJB HD did not attend this meeting but did indicate it the sheriff had the authorit.y to have the reacreationl ordinance foor use of the Animas lifted. Health department indicated it would have a separate meeting with ATSDR and EPA in the next 2-3 days about resumption of recreation along the animas river.

Monday 8/10

-0800 ATSDR in EOC . EPA 8 ER Branch chief indicates that EPA is still 2 days from having QC data useable for further evaluation of water quality. Indicated that the health department did not discuss conclusions of ATSDR tech assistance document at previous nights public meeting.

0900-ATSDR admin indicates travel authorization may take awhile due to problems with the new concur travel system.

0930 call with SJB Health to see what kind.of.assistance might be needed if ATSDR were to deploy. ATSDR emphasized preference of.providing. technical assistance and public health messaging support., and allowing local authorities to make a.decision about.reopening the river. SJB Health indicated that they would need assistance in reviewing data that the county sheriff could use to order resumption of rec activities. Also indicated that CDPHE would be sending communications staff to assist.

-1000 ATSDR coop director contacted ATSDR indicating that she was acting as a state

toxicologist for this event and expressed appreciation for forwarding the ATSDR emergency consult to CDPHE.

-1100ATSDR indicates problems with new travel system and that travel would be delayed until at least 2pm.

-1130 Dr Goyal calls ATSDR 8 at EOC and inquires if ATSDR CVs used for emergency are available to the state. ATSDR forwards request to DTHHS ER. Final ATSDR MS Canyon CV table is provided by the DTHHS ER group

1200 DR Goyal contacts ATSDR again with CDPHE environmental epi Chief Dr. Van Dyke. He indicates that ..due to perceived lack of confidence in EPA by the local govs and due to data report delays for the period immediately following the plume in the river, CDPHE had decided to take its own samples and would provide an independent analysis to local govs. He indicated that the ATSDR report was appreciated because it provided a starting point for them. Also indicated a team of state water and com specialists would eventually be sent to Durango. ATSDR asked if an ATSDR presence there would conflict with CDPHE....Response was that an additional independent presence was useful to ensure that state, feds and locals would be in agreement when decisions were made to lift restrictions. Requested that ATSDR remain in contact with both DR Van Dyke and Dr Goyal...particularly if ATSDR were to respond to additional public health requests.

1400 ATSDR indicates new travel system still causing delays.

1500 San Juan county HD( In Silverton ) Executive director contacted ATSDR via email to request assistance in reviewing ATSDR ER consult before town council meeting. Also requested sampling point location at Silverton Gauging station. ATSDR referred sampling question to field OSC.

1600ATSDR held conference call with San Juan county HD director and Div Med officer to explain public health message and data. ATSDR indicated that the consult focused on the Bakers bridge sampling point location south to Durango due to the request coming from San Juan Basin HD. San Juan County said she understood that Silverton sampling point would have higher numbers during and after the plume due to proximity to mine and cement creek.

1700 ATSDR rep receives preliminary authorization to rent car but travel still not authorized in the system.

1800 Car rental occurs.

1830 San Juan Basin HD Staff calls asking about ETA and provides location of county ER post at la plata county fairgrounds in Durango. ATSDR updates field osc of new eta early 8/11 afternoon.

ATSDR Division of Community Health Investigations

ATSDR Region 8

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Poulet, Chris" <Poulet.Chris@epa.gov>

Date: Aug 10, 2015 5:13 PM

Subject: Gold King Mine Blowout Event - Animas River (Durango CO) ATSDR Region 8

Summary

To: "poulet.chris@gmail.com" <poulet.chris@gmail.com>

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1130 8/9 to discuss results with

Chris Poulet

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